



Participants in the Third Christian Zionist Congress pray for the victims of this week's terror attacks at the Western Wall yesterday. The group, more than 1,000 strong, marched to the Wall from outside the Chief Rabbinate's headquarters, where a memorial service was held. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Likud offers Levy six slots

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and MK Ariel Sharon last night prepared a written proposal for MK David Levy and his new Geshet Party, offering six safe slots on the Likud-Tsomet list. It is to be officially delivered to Levy this morning. Until now, Sharon had been intensively negotiating chiefly with Levy's close aide David Appell, while Levy's stance was that nothing formal had been offered them and there were no formal negotiations. According to Sharon, who continued his intensive dealings with Levy's people, he had already secured an agreement in principle, but Levy is insisting on seven of the first 40 slots on the list, the same as Tsomet. Netanyahu offered six, but also sought to get Tsomet to reduce its representation to equal Levy's. Optimists in the Likud predicted that a deal would be struck by the end of the week, despite Levy's silence on the subject and heated denials from MK David Magen, his Geshet partner. Levy is continuing his three-year practice of not mentioning Netanyahu by name and of walking past him in the Knesset without exchanging a word or glancing in his direction. Former OC Northern Command Yitzhak Mordechai, a friend of

Three arrested for allegedly bribing defense officials

Deals believed to have cost IDF millions of dollars

BILL HUTMAN

THREE military equipment dealers were arrested yesterday by police investigating allegations of a multi-million dollar bribery and fraud case involving private contractors, the Defense Ministry, and the air force. Sources close to the case said more arrests are expected, including those of ministry officials and army officers. The police and Military Police have been investigating the case for three years, but publication has been delayed. Detained were a Ra'anana man, 51, who owns a company that deals in military equipment, the company's buyer, 38, and a Yavne man, 51, who worked in the past at the ministry's sales warehouse at Tzrifin, and now also works for a military equipment company. The three are suspected of bribing air force officers and ministry officials to obtain used air force parts at less than market value. Channel 1 reported that among the officers being questioned by Military Police is a lieutenant-colonel. The IDF lost millions of dollars because of the low cost

Peres announces anti-terror security measures

A SERIES of actions designed to improve the security situation are to be implemented, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday. The closure of the territories will continue, he said. A bus security administration will be established; security forces in Jerusalem and along the Green Line will be beefed up; and pressure will be put on the Palestinian Authority to take stronger action against the terror infrastructure. Peres told the Labor Knesset faction that he and the Ministerial Committee on Security had agreed on these moves. In a short meeting with the Labor MKs, Peres said Israel would push the PA to ensure there is only one armed force in the autonomous areas. "It is inconceivable that in a place that has democratic elections and a democratically elected authority, there should be more than one armed force," he said. "We are not demanding that the PA be responsible for Israel's security, but we do demand that it abide by the agreements between us. According to the agreement, it must outlaw armed terror groups endangering security. We are clear and unequivocal on this and [the decisions] will be implemented in the next few days," Peres said. The bus security plan, recommended by Yigal Pressler, Peres's

PA Police demands surrender of unlicensed weapons

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Police yesterday issued instructions that all unlicensed weapons be handed in by midnight tomorrow, and warned of raids, confiscations, and criminal prosecution of those found in possession of them afterward. The order will be a major test for the Palestinian Authority's resolve, since it has an unwritten understanding to leave Hamas activists alone as long as they keep their guns off the street. Palestinian Police chief Brig-Gen. Ghazi Jabali issued a statement saying that after tomorrow, "the police will begin campaigns and raids in all areas to confiscate unlicensed weapons, regardless of who possesses them." The order followed a demand by Prime Minister Shimon Peres after Sunday's bus bombings that the PA crack down on armed militias. Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak conveyed Israel's insistence on this point in his meeting with PA President Yasser Arafat Tuesday evening. The PA issued a similar order last April 11, after the bombings near Kfar Darom and Netzarim, but Islamic radicals refused to hand in their weapons, saying it would expose them to attack by Israeli agents and the Palestinian Police. Violators were told they would be prosecuted, but few weapons were handed in and few violators were prosecuted. Hamas leaders refused to comment on the new order. There have been reports of a Tuesday meeting between Hamas and PA officials to work out an accord. Anxious to avoid a rift, the PA touted a leaflet signed by Izzadin Kassam saying it was not responsible for Sunday's attacks. In Damascus yesterday, Hamas issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack near French Hill Monday in which an Arab-American smashed his car into a crowded bus stop. Hamas said the assailant belonged to Izzadin Kassam and carried out

14-year-old girl tries to kill ex-boyfriend

AN eighth-grader from Ness Ziona was arrested yesterday on suspicion she tried to murder her former boyfriend, a classmate. The girl, 14, heard that the boy was spreading rumors about her, went home, got a zip gun made by her father, and returned to school. At the first opportunity, she grabbed the boy by the neck, pointed the gun at his head, and pulled the trigger. Fortunately, the gun failed to fire because of a mechanical defect. A teacher grabbed the girl and took the gun. When police went to her home, they found several zip guns, all made by her father. The father was arrested for manufacturing weapons illegally. (lim)

Diana agrees to divorce Charles

NEWS AGENCIES

LONDON PRINCESS Diana has agreed to a request for a divorce by Prince Charles, her spokeswoman said yesterday. A spokeswoman for the princess said that Diana would still be involved in all decisions relating to their two children and will continue to live at Kensington Palace. A statement released last night by Princess Diana's office said: "The Princess of Wales has agreed to Prince Charles' request for a divorce. "The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to the children and will remain at Kensington Palace with offices in St. James's Palace. "The Princess of Wales will retain the title and be known as Diana Princess of Wales."

Supreme Court: No jail time for bankers

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday canceled all the prison sentences imposed on the bankers responsible for the 1983 bank shares collapse, and acquitted the bankers of one of the charges against them, but upheld their convictions on two other charges. The bankers expressed satisfaction with the result, saying they had been acquitted of the main charge. "One can't convict the banks for carrying out government policy," said IDB Bankholding chairman Rafael Recanati. "In the US, for instance, [the indictment] would never have happened... I have a good feeling of justice having been done." Ernst Japhet, former chairman of Leumi, dispelled any illusion that he might have learned from his conviction, however. Asked how he thought shareholders who had been misled by the bankers into buying manipulated shares should relate to them now, he responded: "I think they should continue to trust us." Jerusalem District Court had convicted Japhet, Recanati, who was then chairman of Discount Bank, and then chief Leumi operations officer Mordechai Einhorn, and then Discount deputy chairman Eliahu Cohen of endangering the banks' ability to meet their obligations, aggravated fraud, securities fraud, misleading customers, and falsifying corporate documents. Udi Recanati, who headed Discount's stock market operations, was convicted of all of the above except falsifying corporate documents, while Bank Mizrahi managing director Aharon Meir was convicted of all charges except securities fraud and misleading customers. Mizrahi comptroller Dov Naveh and Dan Bavi, an independent accountant who audited Leumi's books, were also convicted of falsifying corporate documents. Justices Dov Levine, Eliahu Mazza, Ya'acov Kedmi, Tova Strasberg-Cohen, and Zvi Tal all upheld the bankers' convictions for aggravated fraud, securities fraud, misleading customers, and falsifying corporate documents. They unanimously acquitted IDB of these charges, however, noting that since it is not a bank, and has no network of investment consultants, it could not have misled clients into buying bank shares. They also unanimously acquitted Bavi of helping to falsify corporate documents, saying that while he may have been negligent, he did not intend deliberate falsification. In addition, Levine, Mazza, and Tal acquitted the bankers of damaging the banks' ability to meet their obligations, with Kedmi and Strasberg-Cohen dissenting. Levine ruled that because the government had actively supported the share manipulation—not only with words, but by

actions such as pressuring the Bank of Israel to give the banks credit to continue the manipulation—the banks were justified in believing that the government would make it possible for them to continue meeting their obligations. Furthermore, he said, it was never proven that the manipulation, though it clearly hurt the banks, hurt them to the point where they were in danger of not being able to meet their obligations. "But this does not mean the appellants are worthy of praise for their acts," Levine added. "On the contrary: The process they began was irresponsible and dangerous, characterized by a clear preference for the good of the banks... while ignoring the interests of the investors and customers." Kedmi and Strasberg-Cohen, in contrast, said it was clear from the results of the collapse and the subsequent \$7 billion government bailout that the bank's ability to meet their obligations had been seriously damaged. Nor does the government's support absolve the bankers of responsibility, they said, since dependence on a government bailout is precisely what the law is meant to avoid. However, all five of the justices agreed that the prison sentences—

11 months for Japhet, eight for Einhorn and Rafael Recanati, and six for Cohen—should be canceled. The fact that all lost their jobs, C the long time that has elapsed since the crimes were committed, and, most of all, the authorities' involvement in all mitigation against a prison term, they said. The fines imposed, however, will remain in place: NIS 900,000 for Japhet, NIS 600,000 for Einhorn, Rafael Recanati, and Meir, NIS 500,000 for Cohen, NIS 400,000 for Udi Recanati, and NIS 45,000 for Naveh. The court also set an important precedent regarding the admissibility of evidence collected for a state commission of inquiry in a criminal trial. The law states that such evidence cannot be used in a criminal proceeding, and the bankers had argued that the entire trial, which was based on the findings of the 1986 Bejski Commission, was illegal. However, the justices ruled that the legal prohibition refers only to direct use of such evidence. Commission proceedings can be used indirectly, as a guide for a police investigation, they said, as long as the police warn those who are suspects that confirming their testimony to the commission is equivalent to agreeing to its use in court. Any other interpretation of the law, they stated, would produce the undesirable

(Continued on Page 2)

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How Democracy and Religion CAN Thrive in Israel. Friday morning, March 1, 1996, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Beit Daniel, 62 Bnei Dan St., Tel Aviv. Bus lines: 5, 7a, 13, 14, 24, 25, 45, 147, 149, 274. Speakers will include: Prof. Gerda Elata, Ben Gurion University (Modern Orthodox); Rabbi Meir Azari, Progressive Movement; M.K. Avraham Poraz, SHINUI. OPEN DISCUSSION. Admission Free. Light Refreshments. For further information: Roni Porzan, Tel: 03-9669397

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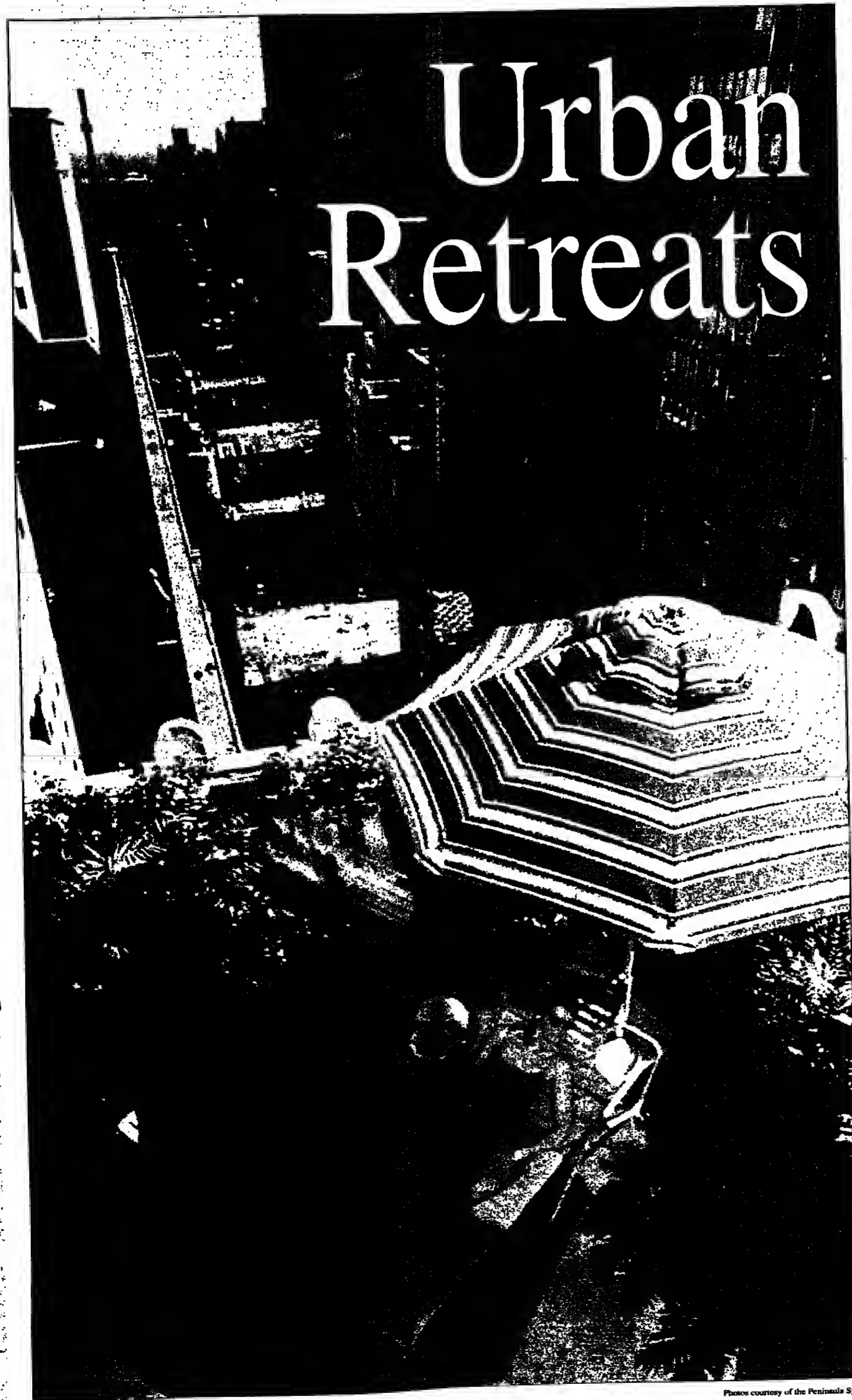


Beyond violence

THE JERUSALEM POST

# TRAVELER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1996



## Urban Retreats

Relaxation comes easy when you're looking down on the city bustle.



Some spas feature private baths—a great way to melt away stress and tension.

## Managing Manhattan's Big City Stress

By Vendela Vida

These days spas are popping up all over Manhattan at a faster rate than coffee bars. The reason? Whether you're a tourist or a Big-Apple-blooded local, spas are a sure way of finding oases of peace and pampering.

The word *spa* originally stems from the town of Spa in Belgium, home to a celebrated watering place. Today, the term is used loosely and can apply to a variety of services and facilities. The trick is to find out which spa can best fulfill your personal fitness, nutritional, psychological and spiritual needs, especially in a city where the stress levels can climb as high as the banks of snow after a blizzard, and at a time when there seems to be so little time.

One spa that seems to have everything a frazzled New Yorker or sight-seeking-exhausted tourist could want is the Peninsula Spa. Located high above New York City's Fifth Avenue in the luxurious Peninsula Hotel, this spa is sure to take you to new heights of rejuvenation and fitness. With a beautiful, panoramic view of Manhattan and a superb staff, the Peninsula Spa offers everything from a fitness room, an indoor pool, an outside sun deck (open in the summer), and, of course, an impressive array of health and beauty treatments. Among the myriad revitalizing services the Peninsula Spa provides are Swedish Massage, Reflexology, Seaweed Purifying

Wrap, Essential Slimming Wrap, Moor Mud Body Mask and Three Dimensional Aroma Body Treatment. Packages like "Executive Relaxation Day" and "The Fifth Avenue Retreat" are also available. And if you don't think one day's enough for all your relaxation and health needs, there's "The Peninsula Spa Weekend Package," which includes one night's accommodation at the Peninsula Hotel and spa services that extend over the course of the weekend. For more information, contact The Peninsula Spa at 700 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10019; (001) 212/903-3910.

While many spas offer all the traditional spa services, some are worth visiting for their unique treatments. An example of an inimitable

**Spas are part of the "get back to nature and away from the superficiality of the eighties" trend that is evidenced in everything from recycling to the basic fashion styles that now hang in store windows.**

spa experience is one offered by La Casa Day Spa, located near Gramercy Park. La Casa, which has a "mother spa" in Puerto Rico, has modernized the old concept of the flotation tank by creating floatation rooms. After showering, visitors, or "floaters," ease into eight inches of water regulated to the same temperature as their skin. One thousand pounds of Epsom salts assure a sterile, bacteria-free solution, as well as

Continued on page 4





# Embracing a Healing Essence

By Martin A. Bartels

Today is indulgence. Today is the reward.

"We focus on healing, in all the different ways—mind, body and spirit," says Shelley Widen Hall, spa director at the ANARA (A New Age Restorative Approach) Spa at the Hyatt Regency Kauai, Hawaii. "There are five ways to experience us: beauty, meditation, pampering, healing and fitness."

I had yet to experience this on my trip to this westernmost Hawaiian island. After scaling volcanoes, and struggling against the unpredictable ocean surf in search of colorful sea life, my muscles ache. Three hours of tennis and afternoon of golf the day before contribute to my sore limbs. My legs are scraped from the volcanic rocks I had navigated with a friend to reach a secret ocean alcove where snorkeling is particularly good. On another adventure, I had climbed to and dove into a remote and chilling freshwater pool.

I admit to some skepticism as I prepare for the treatments planned for me. New Age Restorative Approach? In my experience, New Age has meant weird and esoteric. Neither of those terms apply to the ANARA Spa.

In both the architecture and facilities, the staff draws a careful balance between the therapeutic and the tranquil. There is a well-equipped, state-of-the-art weight room, and a great room for aerobics. An outdoor lap pool maintained at an appropriately cool temperature serves as the center of the spa, surrounded by 10 private open-air rooms for various treatments.

My morning begins with a 10-minute visit to the steam room. A fine, aromatic eucalyptus mist is sprayed into the room as the intense steam works away at stiff muscles and opens the pores of the skin.

The door opens and my massage therapist leads the way to my massage table.

In the space of an hour, this small, 10-foot by 12-foot room transforms into another world.

The design of the space helps the illusion. A lush, tropical garden replaces a wall at one end of the small room. A gentle Hawaiian breeze

flirts with the foliage and wildlife before it comes to rest over the spa bed in which I am comfortably ensconced.

This is not my first spa experience, but it is quickly becoming the most pleasant. Most spas offer similar treatments, ranging from massages and salt scrubs to facials and aromatherapies. Several elements, however, contribute to making the Kauai spa unique.

Throughout my visit, I was struck by the intense fascination in natural remedies and healing. The island boasts tens of thousands of species of herbs and other vegetation, each possessing a medicinal property.

"This clay," my therapist says, "is very unique. It is called 'alaea,' and it's only found on three of our islands, no where else in the world. We use it as a loofah but some people

**In the space of an hour, this small, 10-foot by 12-foot room transforms into another world.**

make tea from it. It is very good for you."

The red clay, which is mined at the base of volcanic flows by Hawaiian kupunas (healers) is mixed with sea salts, aloe and oil to form a lotion. The sea salts, rich in minerals, exfoliate the skin and theoretically draw out impurities.

Combined with the Hawaiian lomi-lomi ta firm, deep-muscle body massage, the treatment leaves the skin silky, and the muscles pliant and supple.

At the end of the massage, a hot bath is drawn, into which a mixture of sea salt and limu (seaweed, in a powdered form) is poured. Twenty minutes later, with a glass of fruit juice in my hand, I begin to wonder how I can take up permanent residence.

No one warned me, though, about the cold shower. In a chamber filled with about a dozen spray nozzles, I am subjected to a brief burst of cold water designed to stimulate blood circulation and cleanse the skin. Most spas offer some variation of this treatment, which is admittedly rejuvenating but probably best left for the stout

hearted.

All of the staff's efforts left me feeling well rested and perhaps even a little healthier. They have not served to allay the growing sense of anxiety I feel as I approach my last treatment.

"Men have a thing about it," Widen Hall agrees. "When you say 'facial,' they think 'make-up.'"

There's an executive, though, who has visited us a couple of times a year for three years now. He told us that being here literally saved his life. I think it's because there was nothing asked of him—the treatment is two hours of accepting, without ever having to give something back."

I am introduced to Lena, who will begin my facial. Lena's very presence is calming. She appears to be in her mid-30s, although she is over 50.

Even if the only benefits of a facial seem to be physical, it is well worth the experience. Lena's treatment begins with a face massage, then moves to my hands and feet. She applies a liquid mask to my face that quickly firms, and is peeled. Various lotions and oils replenish the skin's natural health.

In Hawaii, Lena has studied some of the ancient arts of the kupuna healers, as well as the more New Age techniques of massage and chakra (inner energy).

Gradually, and without much resistance, I accept that there is something relevant in these practices.

Lena covers my face in layers of *ti* leaves (a native Hawaiian tree leaf) and warm towels. My hands and feet are wrapped in heated socks, and aromatic sprays amplify the relaxed atmosphere.

It is an experience that inspires thoughts of profound life changes. A oev diet, perhaps—vegetables and fruit, with an occasional side of fish. Daily meditation, and a commitment to decreasing the stress of my modern lifestyle.

Somewhere in the back of my mind, though, I suspect I will fall back to my old ways as soon as I return home. But for a brief moment, I am allowed to embrace the healing essence of escape.

Martin A. Bartels is a freelance travel writer.



Therapeutic showers will typically offer short bursts of alternating hot and cold water, primarily designed to aid blood circulation.

Spa treatments range from modest to extravagant (one spa, for instance, offers high-intensity water "massage" from a fire-hose), and prices reflect that range, as well. Most spas will offer combinations of the following. Prices vary between \$80 and \$150 for an hour's worth of work. At most spas, it is appropriate to tip the therapist between 15 and 20 percent of the cost of the session.

## AROMATHERAPY

The real benefits of aromatherapy are open to debate, but the psychological benefits can be very rewarding. Various odors are believed to create essences ranging from increased energy to passive relaxation, and even sensual desire. Aromatherapy is most often used at spas simply to create a specific atmosphere or environment in the treatment room.

## MASSAGE

There are dozens of styles of massage, too numerous to detail here. Some of the most common include Swedish (traditional), shiatsu (deep pressure points), lomi-lomi (deep muscle, full body), reiki (gentle and without oils, designed for relaxation), and Thai (gentle, with stretching movements incorporated). Deep massage is not recommended for elderly people or those with certain physical disabilities and intestinal disorders. Consult with a physical therapist or doctor before trying any unfamiliar styles.

## SALT SCRUBS

These are not recommended for people with sunburns. Salt scrubs incorporate rough, grainy sea salts and soft oils to act as sand-paper on the skin. The technique removes dead skin and exfoliates the pores. The effect can be painful for people with sensitive skin. It does, however, leave the skin incredibly smooth and creates a glowing complexion.

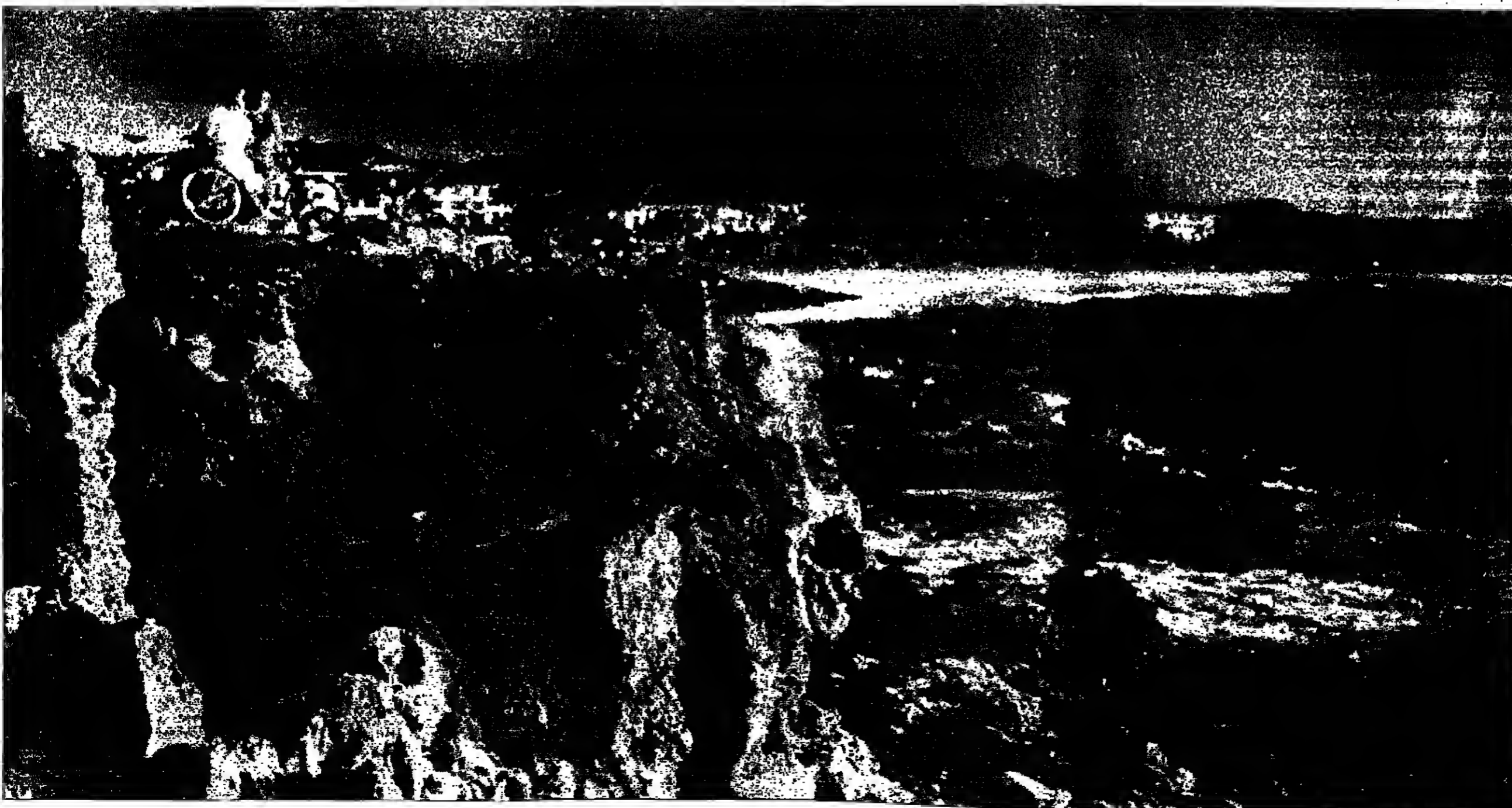
## MUD & SEAWEED BATHS

Baths are typically heated to relax the body's muscles and joints. Mud and seaweed contain minerals and nutrients to treat the skin.

## FACIALS

Facials are usually a combination of light massage and skin treatments. Facial masks come in many varieties, most commonly a combination of vegetable byproducts and oils. They are designed to cleanse the pores, remove dead skin cells, and soften the skin. Manicures and pedicures are sometimes paired with these treatments.

Most spas also offer various exercise programs such as aerobics, Tai chi, yoga and reflexology. Some spas also provide strictly balanced dietary menus (usually vegetarian). It is important to ask when making reservations if health menus are available.



Kauai is home to many scenic overlooks.

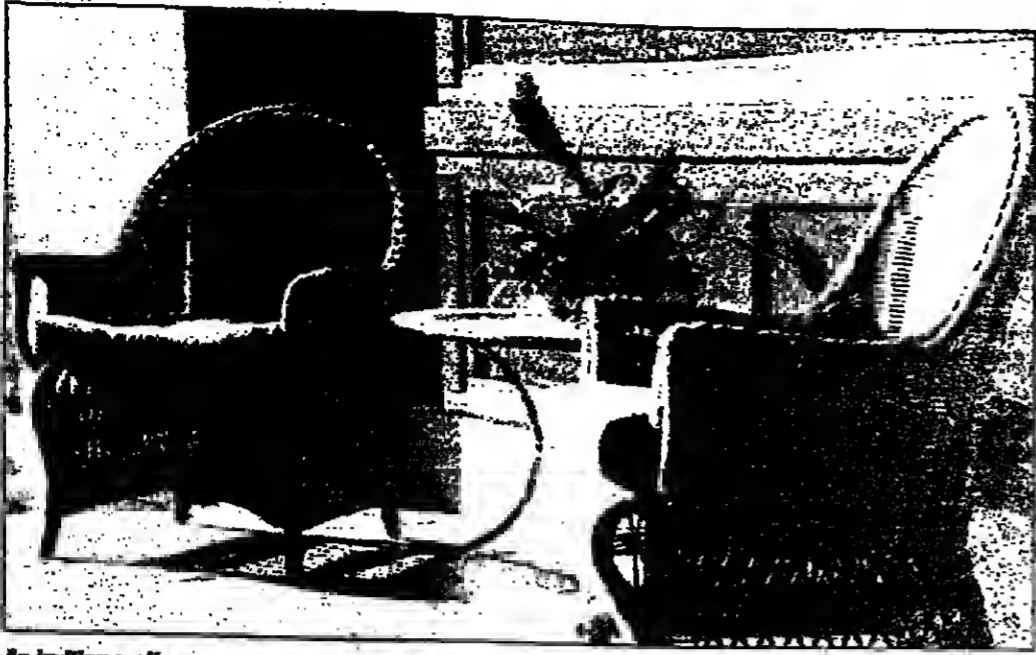
Photos courtesy of Hyatt Regency Kauai

Have this "Hang Loose" simply fold your hand and index and pinkie fingers nobody as they cruise by.

LAST OFFER

Buy B





An inviting seating arrangement at the Hyatt Regency Kauai.

# HANG LOOSE AND ENJOY HAWAIIAN TIME

By Steve Dolan

Copley News Service

**K**AUAI, Hawaii—About 10 p.m., several of us took a walk on the beach and looked at the stars.

We saw the Milky Way. Then, the Big Dipper. Without bright lights, a big city or polluted air, the sky was as clear as could be. And there were stars everywhere. Stars in the skies. Stars in your eyes. That's what a trip to this beautiful Hawaiian island is all about.

Kauai, sometimes referred to as "cow-eye," is known as "The Garden Isle" due to its lush vegetation and abundance of agriculture.

It may be a garden island to some, but to others, it's strictly paradise. Talk about a vacation to a beautiful island where you can get away from it all.

We were fortunate enough to be on a tour where all transportation was provided. If that's not the case for you, book a rental car well in advance. You're not going to be able to hail a cab on this island.

Upon arrival, we were taken to Poipu. This area was devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992 but has been rebuilt in remarkable fashion.

In fact, one of the few reminders of Iniki came just outside of Poipu. The tree branches above the road are not intertwined as they once were because of the damage suffered during the hurricane.

**They have this "Hang Loose" sign—you simply fold your hand and extend your index and pinkie finger to somebody as they cruise by.**

Once we arrived at our hotel, the Hyatt Regency Kauai, the possibilities seemed endless. There were swimming pools galore, a world-class golf course, across the street, massages, beaches, you name it.

For my first "activity," I decided for the massage

by Monica. It was called the "Lomi Lomi," where almost every area of the body receives attention—and that includes the hands, feet, head and face.

I was told Monica was a strong Samoan woman, and that was an understatement. Thankfully she eased up during the massage.

After that soothing massage, my body felt great. The massage was designed to ease blood pressure, and my usually high blood pressure was probably somewhere near normal after the treatment.

Next came a round of golf at Poipu Resort Bay Golf Course. This course is incredibly picturesque. If you look in one direction, you see the mountains. Look the other way and there's the Pacific Ocean.

It immediately seemed to me as if there was just too much sand on the beaches nearby. But then it came to mind that they must have taken some of the excess sand from the beach and put it on the golf course.

This course is devoid of trees, but the sand hazards are omnipresent. On the fourth hole, in fact, I went from sand trap to sand trap.

After a round of this challenging course, it's best to forget that your score zoomed well into triple figures. One lady in our foursome from Montgomery, Alabama, said it best when she commented, "After this, I need a major cocktail."

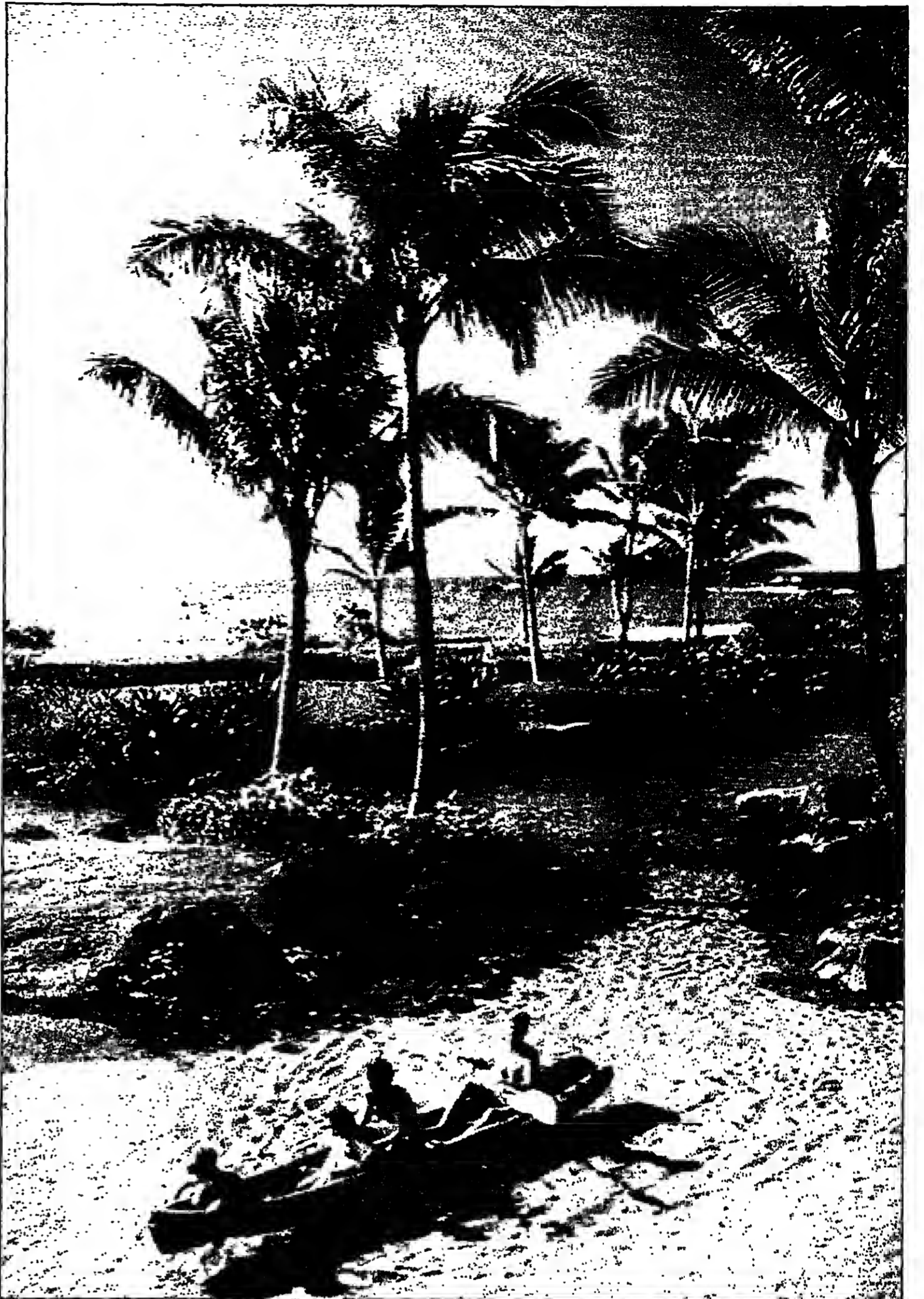
Hawaii is famous for its rum drinks such as mai tais, pina colodas and lava flows. The vodka-flavored Blue Hawaiians and kalaebo colada made from Bailey's and macadamia nut liqueur aren't bad, either.

The day after playing golf, we took a trip to Waimea Canyon. Known as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," it features an abundance of deep, spectacularly hued gorges. On our way up Waimea Canyon Drive, we spotted wild geese on the cliffs. I'm just glad somebody else was driving because the road was treacherous.

When we eventually began a 1.2-mile hike on the Alakai Swamp Trail, the weather was as humid as could be. There is supposedly something in Hawaii called trade winds to cool the weather, but those winds are still a rumor in my mind.

Next up was the 2.3-mile Pihea Trail. By the time we finished that hike, it was raining.

From heat pain to rain in a matter of hours? That's the way they say it is here.



Photos courtesy of the Hyatt Regency Kauai

Keyaking close to the shore is one way to hang loose.

Getting to these trails was no picnic. Our driver, Francis Keao of Kauai Mountain Tours, was a great and talkative guy.

Keao told us he was also a fisherman, which is popular among Hawaiians. He said a friend of his recently caught a 103-pound ulua (a fish known along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as a pompano).

After two days of nothing but rushing on Kauai, Day 3 was time to kick back. Most of us simply enjoyed the pools, hot tubs and pool slides at the Hyatt—a daylong adventure in itself.

By midday, we moved from Poipu to Waimea. Talk about culture shock. This was like going from Palm Springs, California, to Laramie, Wyoming, and being told there was little difference between the two.

There wasn't much more to do in Waimea than walk on the beach, go shopping or gaze at the stars. But, hey, after a couple of busy days, it was nice to take a 10-minute break.

Throughout the islands, they have this "hang loose" sign used to greet people. You simply fold your hand and extend your index and pinkie fingers to somebody as they cruise by.

There's also something they call "Hawaiian time." That merely means you show up late and say you were on Hawaiian time.

The stars. Hang loose. Hawaiian time.

Steve Dolan is a Copley News Service editor and travel writer.

## TRAVELER

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AMERICAN INTERACTIONS WITH ISRAELI

**LAST OFFER**

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# Buy Blue & White and Keep Israel in the News

# A GREEN VALLEY TUNE-UP

By Roberta Sotonoff

After hiking the trails of Zion and Bryce canyons in Utah, my body needed a tune-up. And luckily for my aching calves, Green Valley Spa and Tennis Resort, just outside of St. George, Utah proved to be the perfect place for some therapeutic body work.

My daughter, Caryn, and I were greeted by a staff

member, who, after taking one look at our bedraggled bodies, promptly whisked us into the Relaxation Room. Here, guests clad in white robes and flanked by potted greenery lounged on oversized sofas and fluffy chairs.

"This is the waiting room of a hospital or of heaven," I whispered to Caryn.

She picked up a sheet highlighting the color of the day—Yellow. It explained, "like the radiant light of dawn reflected in the sparkle and glisten of early-morning dew drops."

Two white-attired young women approached us.

"Would you like a massage?" Caryn and I eyed each other trying to suppress a giggle. Why not?

And so we experienced our initiation into the inner sanctum of Green Valley Spa—"a place where the images in our minds and the dreams in our hearts can come true."

Green Valley Spa's treatments are unique. For example, my facial included a foot rub and a full body fanning "to remove any bad aura around."

On Green Day I was scheduled for a pedicure and a massage. My soft-spoken attendant ushered me from the Relaxation Room into a private shower. Two heated mitts alongside a tall green goblet filled with lime-flavored water sparked my curiosity. The first is covered with a mixture of sand, powdered peels and natural ingredients which cleanse and exfoliate. The second is a moisturizer. After finishing my shower, I don the relaxation uniform, a terry-cloth robe, and was escorted to my treatment.

"I am to have a pedicure," I told the therapist as my arms were put in a tub of warm wax, covered in plastic, and placed on my hands. I was then led to a huge Lazy-Boy, and the therapist pointed to a green goblet and said, "It'll help if you are thirsty." The glassware, it seemed, matched the color of the day.

She massaged my feet and legs. After a footbath, my feet were covered with wax, plastic and booties.

My massage began an hour later. The preliminary treatment was the same: two mitts, another shower but this time I was led to a large room illuminated by three green beeswax candles. New Age music filled the room, a weeping willow tree hung over a flower-filled Jacuzzi and a green glass rested on the tub's rim.

"This is a honey and milk treatment to relax you for the massage," the therapist informed me. "Is there any particular part of your body that gives you trouble?"

Not after this treatment, that's for sure.

## THE SECRET TO GREEN VALLEY RELAXATION

Owner Carole Coombs is responsible for the honey and milk meltdown. She has created the Relaxation Center along with the potions used there.

"Our main objective is to dispel tensions, bring pleasure and make you aware



A massage is only part of the experience, at the Green Valley Spa and Tennis Resort in Utah.

of your surroundings," she says.

Together with her husband, Alan, they have developed the spa and most of the valley. With 12 children between them, it is a family endeavor.

"There is a place for all of them in the business," says Alan.

Part of their success with the spa emanates from their meticulous attention to detail. Oriental rugs hang from the walls of a workout room. In the dining room,

**All this activity and pampering has recharged my battery, put air in my tires, replaced my shocks and made my body feel rustless and dent-free.**

the decor is changed daily, making the savory, salt-free, low-sugar, low-fat food taste even better. The daily calorie count of these tasty tidbits totals a mere 1,300.

Every aspect of life at the spa has been calculated. At night, *A Thought to Ponder* appears on a silver tray along with fruit and tea to match the daily hue.

Guests are housed in tastefully decorated condos with spectacular mountain or desert views. Accommodations are so bountiful that for almost two days, I mistake my closet for the hallway to the living room.

Sensational scenery surrounds the spa. Hikers gather every morning at 6:15 a.m. to survey nearby canyons and foothills. Absorbing the red-soaked beauty is as breathtaking as the arduous treks up the steep inclines. Indian arrowheads and petroglyph-etched caves are almost commonplace along these trails.

Trekkers return to the spa between 9 a.m. and 12

noon to relax, workout or swim. Green Valley classes run the gamut from yoga, exercise, and cardio-funk to bread baking and Bootie Scootin' Line Dancin'. I try the fit ball. Trying to do sit ups on a giant ball takes coordination, so I spent much of the class on the floor.

Classes at the Vic Braden Tennis College are included. No more than six students per level are individually coached and drilled. Each pupil's daily progress is recorded on videotape.

For guests who prefer relaxation and stress reduction, \$290 buys the super pampering Botanical Body Enlivening Program. It includes special massages, wraps, crushed pearl body rubs and full-body mud packs. Also unique to Green Valley are add-ons like card readings, mind mapping and color consultations. For \$350, the Shaman Journey's Program offers a profound understanding to your inner life.

During one of the evening discourses, author Steve Upwall speaks to guests of insights. Another lecturer, Russ Robertson, shares his hiking experiences and pictures of the Anasazi cave he and his friends discovered in the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. This active septagenarian leads some of the hikes, but an injection of mountain goat genes is necessary to keep his pace.

The days at Green Valley pass as quickly as Russ' strides. There must be something to this New Age stuff. All this activity and pampering has recharged my battery, put air in my tires, replaced my shocks and made my body feel rustless and dent-free. I'm not longer a clunker. The next time I need a tune-up, I know where to go.

Green Valley Spa and Tennis Resort, 1515 West Canyon View Drive, St. George, Utah 84770, (001) 801/628-8060 offers weekly packages, including treatments, for \$2,350. Other packages and specials are available.

Roberta Sotonoff is a freelance travel writer.



A Jacuzzi by candlelight may be the quickest way to tune-up.

Photos courtesy of the Green Valley Spa

## Urban Retreat From page 1

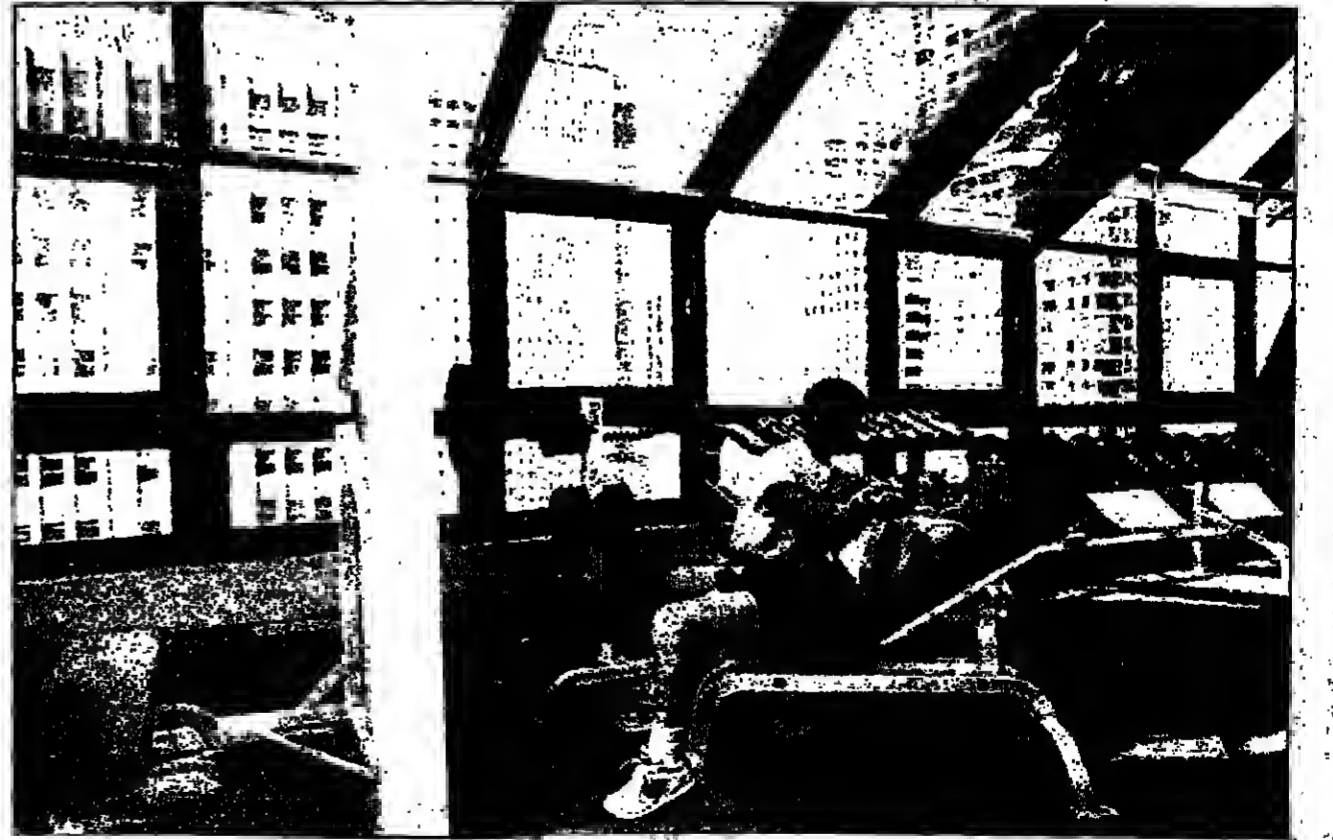
giving a sense of buoyancy and weightlessness, similar to that experienced by anyone who's floated in the Dead Sea. The floatation rooms are sound-proof and offer no light, thereby creating an atmosphere of "sense deprivation," which is perhaps the ultimate refuge from the urban noise of honking cabs and constantly ringing cellular phones. Dr. Jane Goldberg, the director of La Casa, claims that 40 minutes in a floatation room is almost as invigorating as a full night's worth of sleep. She opened the New York spa at the same time that she became a mother, and claims that

the floatation rooms gave her the energy she needed during that time. A one-time visit to the floatation tank costs \$40, less if a package is purchased. Call or stop in La Casa Day Spa at 41 East 20th Street, New York, New York 10003; (001) 212/673-CASA.

For a more communal spa experience, check out the Tenth Street Russian and Turkish Baths, located in Manhattan's East Village. While there were once dozens of baths in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx, the Tenth Street Baths are the last of its kind in New York City. After exercising, visitors to the Baths can don a robe, towel and slippers and make their way to the steam room or sauna where, as a sign in the Baths suggests, they can "just sit and shvitz." Next,

visitors can go to the ice cold pool, and afterwards, enjoy fresh-squeezed juice and request a "healthful" meal from the chef before taking a nap, reading, or watching their favorite sporting event on television. Also optional are massages or pizzas. Pizzas are given with brooms made of oak leaves which contain a natural astringent. This astringent opens the pores and allows the body to sweat and rid itself of dirt and harmful toxins. Let's you think that spas cater mostly to women, the Tenth Street Baths reserve two days a week—Thursdays and Sundays—when only men are allowed to use the facilities. Women have the place to themselves on Wednesdays, and on all remaining days the baths are co-ed. One day admission to the Baths costs \$19, and a month-long membership costs \$113. The Tenth Street Baths are located at 268 East 10th Street, New York, New York 10009; (001) 212/473-8806.

If you're looking for an other-worldly experience, Millefleurs just might take you to where you want to go. Located in New York's increasingly chic TriBeCa (which stands for Triangle Below Canal Street), Millefleurs looks like an Egyptian temple. Not only does the architecture try to embody this lost era when nature provided medicine, but so does the spa's philosophy. The products at Millefleurs are all extracted from fruits and vegetables and the treatments offered



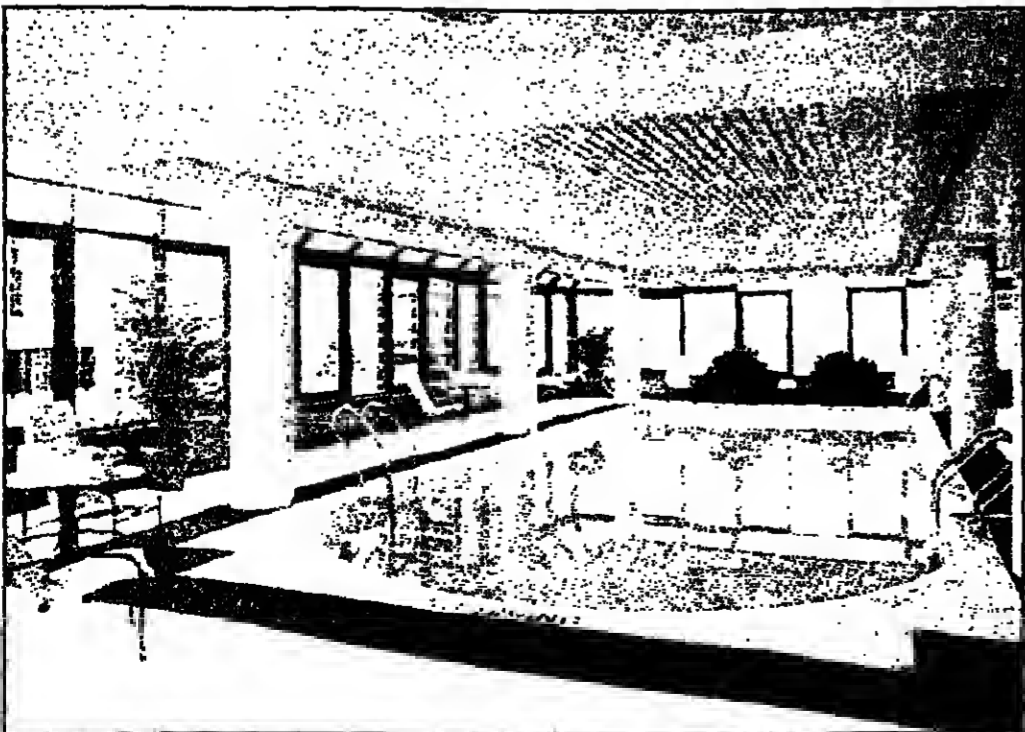
A personal trainer provides workout tips for this spa-goer.

by the spa aim to balance the body's nature. The spa is designed to be a kind of sanctuary for reflection to help guests gain perspective on a situation that may have been unmanageable before they received a treatment at Millefleurs. Millefleurs is located at 130 Franklin Street, New York, New York; (001) 212/966-3656.

Whether or not they look like sanctuaries, these spas all emphasize that beauty comes from within. They market the belief that a toxin-free body and a clear mind will make you a more beautiful person.

Spas are part of the "get back to nature and away from the superficiality of the eighties" trend that is evidenced in everything from recycling to the basic fashion styles that now hang in store windows. Certainly spas, as timeless as they are, seem to be the latest discovery of the nineties for both men and women. Tourists and locals alike—said a discovery that's more likely to soothe the nerves than the triple espressos available at the nearest coffee bar.

Vendela-Vida is a New York based writer.



The Peninsula Spa's pool overlooks the surrounding metropolis.

Photos courtesy of the Peninsula Spa

הסתמנות

eyond olence

# Shooting up the drug war

### If Israel approaches its narcotics problem as a battle, it can only lose, an American expert tells Esther Hecht

WHEN Prof. Arnold Trebach came down from his Jerusalem hotel room for a 10:30 a.m. interview, the bar in the middle of the lobby had already been open for half an hour.

"I can buy alcohol, the most toxic chemical, at 10 a.m. in a hotel bar," he said. "But if I were to say I'd like some marijuana, they'd probably call the police."

This belies the myth that the country's drug-control policy is based on a clear rationale; in fact, there are no clear reasons why some substances are legal and others are not, said Trebach, 67, who heads the Drug Policy Foundation, an independent think tank in Washington, DC.

Another myth is that increasing penalties will reduce the drug problem. In the US, research has shown this doesn't help, yet Israel is following in America's footsteps, he said.

Not only does the policy have no rational basis, but it violates democratic principles by infringing on personal freedoms, Trebach said. For example, in the name of the drug war, individuals suspected of having swallowed drugs so as to smuggle them into the country have been detained at Ben-Gurion Airport until they defecated in the presence of a police guard.

Urine testing for drug use, espe-

cially in the IDF, is another infringement of personal liberty, and it is ineffectual, he said. "It gives a false sense of security and proves nothing. There is no substitute for command evaluation: how the person performs as a soldier."

Trebach was here recently for a symposium entitled Drug Abuse and Public Policy: War or Welfare?, held by the Hebrew University's Institute of Criminology.

A more rational approach, he said, is to put more money into education, to teach children what we know about all drugs, that is, all substances that alter moods and give pleasure. These include tobacco, alcohol, tranquilizers, coffee, tea, chocolate, even aspirin.

"We should tell them, for example, that smoked tobacco is one of the most addictive substances, and that they will quickly find themselves hopelessly addicted. But there is no factual basis to the theory that marijuana use leads to hard drug use. The real danger is that marijuana is an intoxicant, and kids must be aware of that," he said. "We have to be as honest about drugs as we are about sex."

The mistake educators make is in presenting drugs as "immediately death-dealing." Youngsters don't take this "information" seriously, he said, because they've already experimented with drugs and know it isn't true.



Professor Arnold Trebach: "We have to be as honest about drugs as we are about sex." (Sarit Uzeli)

IN THEORY, Trebach is opposed to the paternalistic approach, under which the government penalizes drug users. "It's not the government's business what I put into my body," he said.

Practically, however, he advocates compromise: Israel should follow the Dutch model, maintaining the current prohibition on hard drugs, but legalizing soft drugs, namely, hashish and marijuana, and intervening only when their use is associated with other crimes.

"Dutch kids can get all the pot they want, but use hasn't increased," he said. "The authorities have taken the thrill out of it."

He recognizes that the negative side of such a policy could make Israel the drug mecca of the Middle East, as Holland has become in Europe, but still insists this model is one of the most successful.

As for hard drugs, Trebach

favors a "harm-reduction" model. Addiction should be treated as an illness, and doctors, rather than the police, should be dealing with addicts, offering a range of options, including rehabilitation to those who will accept it. Those who cannot or will not give up their addictions should receive sterile needles and doctors, advised by social workers, should prescribe opiates - heroin, methadone, codeine and opium.

In Switzerland, 1,000 addicts are getting a wide array of drugs, prescribed by doctors, he said.

Trebach pointed to Liverpool as a successful example of this approach. "It was a city with a tough economic situation, and this program kept it from becoming a disaster," he said. An array of clinics offered needles, condoms, medical treatment, vitamins and antibiotics. When given a choice, he said, 52 percent of addicts chose detox over drugs.

No addict contracted AIDS under the program, nor was there any drug-related homicide, he said.

Trebach teaches criminology and drug policy at American University. He got involved in drug policy by accident in the 1970s when, as an analyst of national crime-control strategies for the Nixon administration, he studied budgets for drug-abuse control. It was then he discovered there was little factual basis for the assumptions underlying the laws and budgets. Since then he has written two books, *The Heroin Solution* and *The Great Drug War*, exposing the fallacies underlying the war on drugs.

Most of the academics who spoke at the symposium agreed with Trebach that the basic assumptions underlying drug control must be reconsidered. This evoked an irate response from Ran Shorer, director-general of the War on Drugs Authority.

## When numbers don't add up

THE year-end drug bash in Goa, India, reportedly attended by hundreds of Israelis, set the public and the authorities rui-tuting again. But how bad is our drug problem?

It doesn't seem to be getting worse, at least in terms of percentages. But the statistics, where they exist, are incomplete at best and unreliable at worst. This emerged at a symposium entitled Drug Abuse and Public Policy: War or Welfare?, held by the Hebrew University's Institute of Criminology.

A survey in the first half of 1995 showed that 5 percent of junior-high and high-school pupils had used some kind of drug - like hashish, marijuana, tranquilizers, amphetamines or heroin - at least once in the past year, and most studies in the past 15 years have showed the same percentage, according to Prof. Giora Rahav, of Tel Aviv University's sociology department.

Among a sample of householders aged 18 to 40, a survey in the same period showed that 7% had used some kind of drug in the past year, he said.

But such surveys underrepresent precisely the sectors likely to include more users: the homeless, the hospitalized, the imprisoned, and youngsters who are dropouts or truants, Rahav said.

And not all those surveyed responded truthfully. One school survey included a question about a fictitious drug to check the respondents' reliability. Half the pupils wrote that they had used it, according to Prof. Rafael Meshulam, of the Hebrew University's School of Pharmacology.

The advantage of these studies, however, is that they are a good basis for comparing the drug problem here with that in other countries, because the methodology is used widely, Rahav said.

As for the number of addicts among the users, Dr. Rachel Bar-Hamburger, chief scientist of the War on Drugs Authority, said we know only about those who come for treatment.

In prison populations, the picture seems to be clearer. Dr. Ya'acov Ziegelbaum, head of the medical division of the Prison Service, said 60% of inmates are drug users, and 20% of these (or 12 percent of all inmates) are addicts.

E.H.

There is no point in differentiating between cannabis and other drugs, he said.

"We can't prove the effects" of the various drugs.

Ariella Segev, head of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's drug-abuse treatment department, joined Shorer in criticizing some of the academics' assumptions.

In Israel, with its strong social structure, one can't speak of drug abuse as a victimless crime, she said. "Here, drug abusers have supportive families: every drug abuser drags down the people around him."

Decriminalization of drugs is

usually not an ideology, but simply giving up the fight, she said.

"We needed the first years of the war on drugs to set up treatment programs and to get public support. It's too soon to say they don't work; we're not ready to give up yet."

The criminology institute's Prof. Leslie Sebba, co-organizer of the symposium, commented afterwards: "Though the voices from the field heard most loudly favor a punitive approach, there are many in the field who believe in other forms of social control, like welfare treatment or medicalization."

## Seek guidance when raising a child alone

DEAR RUTHIE  
RUTHIE BLUM

**D**EAR RUTHIE, Recently separated - and in the midst of divorce proceedings - I discovered that I am three months pregnant. I am 38 and have no other children. Under no circumstances would I have an abortion, but I fear raising a child alone.

My husband says he will go along with any choice I make - including moving back in with me. I feel this would be wrong for both of us, but am tempted for the sake of the baby.  
Pregnant Pauser  
Somewhere in Israel

**Dear PP:** It is possible that your pregnancy was your body's unconscious attempt at hanging on to your marriage. Herein may lie the temptation to patch it up. Nevertheless, professional guidance is probably in order.

In the event that you decide to remain alone, you would do well to contact a support group for single parents. Raising a child solo involves special kinds of difficulties which can be alleviated somewhat by the support of others in a similar situation.

In the meantime, you should consult with a family mediator or lawyer to make a contractual arrangement with your husband regarding the financial and other aspects of your joint relations with the child.

No matter how unnecessary legal intervention may seem to you at this point - particularly if your spouse is cooperating with you now - it is impossible to foresee how things will turn out after the actual birth.

**Dear Ruthie,** My companion of five years has grown lonely for her children abroad. She would like to spend six months of every year near them. I do not wish to disrupt my life in this way, yet I do not wish to be apart from my companion for so long.

When we began to share our lives, she had indicated that she would want to live part of the time out of the country. I think it unfair to make such sudden decisions without taking my sentiments into account. Can you advise me on how to proceed?  
Companion-in-Quandary  
Caesarea

**Dear C-in-Q,** Sudden decisions often result from sudden pangs of emotion. Your companion's yearning for her children is not something which should surprise or trouble you. If it is her absence which worries you, however, you might reconsider "disrupting" your life by accompanying her.

If this is not an option, remain behind with your chin up. Being gracious about her departure is more likely to bring about her speedy return. Furthermore, she herself may discover that spending so much time away from her routine - while being "dependent" upon her kids - is not as satisfying as fantasy would have indicated.

**Dear Ruthie,** My husband and I decided to sell our house outside of the city, now that our children are grown. We found a charming flat in a marvelous location in the city, which we can afford. To be certain about this purchase, I performed a numerology calculation. According to the number of the address of the flat, it would be a mistake to buy it.

To double check, I then consulted my neighbor, who is a respected fortune teller, to read my tarot cards. She confirmed my fears by warning against this purchase. Needless to say, my husband thinks my head needs examining. Still, this does not assuage my fears.  
In a Flat Fluster  
Mevaseret

**Dear Flat Fluster,** The fact that you consulted numbers and cards is indicative of your hesitancy. Though reason has dictated that you move now that your children have grown, your "gut" may be resisting. Neither you nor your husband should underestimate the power of the gut, however.

If you have not come to terms with the decision to uproot, no flat will satisfy you completely. Once you successfully exorcise your fears, on the other hand, even the numbers are likely to add up favorably.

## Buy Blue & White and keep Israel in the Pink

## 'Old-boys' agree: A woman's place is in the House (of Commons)

**S**EVENTEEN years after Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first female prime minister, women remain very much on the outside of British parliamentary life. Fewer than one member of parliament in 10 is female and only two women sit in Prime Minister John Major's cabinet.

The House of Commons still resembles a boys' men's club, full of hearty laughing, clever point-scoring and childish behavior. The few women dotted around the chamber look assigned to the situation and often appear as the "boys' fight it out among themselves."

"It's not a very attractive place for women to want to get to until it changes," says Liberal Democrat MP Diane Maddock.

"Women do not want to play the game of one-upmanship and so much of what goes on in parliament is men playing a game. They feel good after it but what good does it do for people outside?"

All three of the main parties agree parliament's reputation among voters is at an all-time low and having more women MPs is desirable. But their best efforts are bearing little fruit as the country nears an election to be held at some point within the next 16 months.

Major's ruling Conservative have appointed just 17 women to stand as prospective candidates at the election for the

651-seat House of Commons, alongside 17 sitting MPs, despite assigning deputy party chairman Dame Angela Rumbold to energize the female masses.

Major was reported to believe that too many second-rate men were being preferred to first-rate women.

"We want to encourage more women who are interested in politics to come forward and go out there and compete," Rumbold says.

She admits this concept is often opposed by grass-roots supporters. Would-be women candidates complain the party is still wedded to the idea that a woman is more useful as a wife than as an MP. Her place is making coffee, not legislation.

The so-called "blue-rinse set" of middle-aged, middle-class women who are the bedrock of Conservatism believe women should support their man, not supplant him, critics say.

Labor, which leads the Conservatives by 30 points in opinion polls, eschewed persuasion for a diktat whereby constituencies with good election prospects were forced to choose their election candidates from all-women lists.

This policy was a major part of Labor's attempts to woo female voters, who tend to vote Conservative. Surveys show Labor would have won the 1992 election by a clear margin if women had mirrored the voting

pattern of male voters.

The all-women policy, agreed at the 1993 and 1994 Labor party annual conferences, was designed to have 90 women Labor MPs in the next parliament. Only 38 of 270 Labor MPs and 19 of 324 Conservatives in the House of Commons are women.

It offered an easy target for Labor's opponents who called it positive discrimination fueled by misguided political correctness. Rumbold believes the policy patronizes women. By mid-1995 Labor leader Tony Blair was publicly questioning its viability and in January a legal challenge by two male would-be Labor candidates killed it off.

An industrial tribunal in Leeds, northern England, ruled that the policy was contrary to the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. Labor immediately scrapped it but 34 women candidates already chosen will not be affected.

Labor women MPs were dismayed by the tribunal's decision as, with an overwhelming Labor victory on the cards, they believe a great opportunity may have been lost to change the atmosphere in the House of Commons once and for all.

The first woman to take her seat in the lower house was Nancy, Viscountess Astor, in 1919 but women MPs rarely grabbed the political headlines until Margaret Thatcher became Conservative leader in 1975. She was prime minister from 1979 until 1990.

Far from improving their lot, many women believe the Iron Lady did little for the female sex. She liked nothing better than mixing it with the boys, often descending to the shouting, finger-waving behavior of male MPs.

Certainly, behavior in the lower house maintained its steady decline during the Thatcher years. "It's a point-scoring debating chamber as opposed to a problem-solving debating chamber," says Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson, who represents a wealthy north London constituency on behalf of the Labor Party, and is often the focus of snide attacks from the Conservative benches.

## GAME TIME

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, February 29, 1995

## Beisky: Gov't should implement panel proposals

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government still bears responsibility for implementing most of the Beisky Commission recommendations, according to ex-judge Moshe Beisky, who headed the panel investigating the 1983 bank share collapse. His statements came after yesterday's Supreme Court decision overruling the jail sentences of eight bankers involved in the collapse. Beisky told Israel Radio the court's decision to cancel the prison terms is not surprising considering the age of the former bankers and the long period that has transpired since the collapse.

"Since the time the deeds were done - from 1979 until October 1983 - 12 to 15 years have passed. When you judge someone after so many years, this, along with many other arguments, must be considered," he said. Beisky emphasized that most of the panel's recommendations

have not yet been implemented and is the main reason why the banks continue to mislead the public.

"The government has not concluded nor implemented the recommendations of the committee, which was appointed to prevent another collapse, which indeed occurred last year. If it had implemented at least part of our recommendations, such as preventing banks from advising customers on which securities to buy and giving loans to people to purchase bank shares, last year's collapse would not have happened," Beisky added.

The major banks' immediate reaction to the court's verdict was that the affair is history and has no bearing on them or their relationship with the Bank of Israel. They emphasized that the bankers involved in the collapse are no longer involved in the banking system today.

## Share options plan to public postponed

Jerusalem Post Staff



Shohat: I want to be sure no one believes the plan is election bribery.

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday announced he is backtracking from his decision to introduce a bill aimed at offering the public shares in state-owned assets.

Shohat explained his change due to mounting criticism that the proposal's timing smacked of election bribery. "I find it essential that no one should have the slightest doubt of that sort," he said.

Shohat added he was convinced the plan is an efficient privatization tool, and said he supports implementation immediately following the elections.

Senior Labor officials, most notably Justice Minister David Libai, recently have criticized the plan's timing saying it might hurt the coalition at the ballots.

According to the bill, known as

"the options plan," each citizen above the age of 18 would receive a voucher booklet to be used for the purchase of shares in state assets which would then be traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Government sources would not disclose the companies' names nor the amount of shares slated for sale through the plan, but he said the overall value of market transactions would be "in the billions of shekels." The bill originally was to be approved by the cabinet last Sunday, but discussion was postponed, apparently due to the day's terrorist attacks.

The options plan was first devised and launched in the Czech Republic, where it worked well, and then was emulated throughout post-communist Europe with varying degrees of success.

## Union Bank profits soar 179%

COMPANY RESULTS  
GALIT LIPKIS BECK  
and RACHEL NEIMAN

UNION Bank of Israel reported a 179 percent growth in fourth-quarter profits to NIS 6.95 million, from NIS 2.49m. in the same period last year.

For 1995, net profits increased 94% to NIS 38.6m., from NIS 19.9m. Net return on equity on an annual basis increased to 6%, from 5.2%.

Profit from financing activities before provisions for doubtful debts last year increased 21% to NIS 277.7m., from NIS 229.5m., due to an increase in assets which earned yields and a rise in financial margins.

Provisions for doubtful debts increased 84% to NIS 37.9m., from NIS 20.6m., due to a worsening in the economy's ability to return credit.

The bank's revenues from ordinary and other activities fell 11.4% to NIS 103.3m., from NIS 115.5m., which reflected lower income from security activities, mainly due to the capital market crisis.

At the end of the year, total assets increased 11.7% to NIS 9.29 billion, from NIS 8.32b. Credit to the public rose 6% to NIS 5.56b., while deposits from the public rose 7.7% to NIS 6.77b.

Israel Discount Bank of New York, the largest Israeli-owned bank operating abroad, reported a 51% growth in net profits last year to \$24.5m. compared with \$16.2m. in 1994. Total assets increased to \$3.85b., from \$3.64b. at the end of 1994. Total stockholders equity was \$327m.

NIS 9.87m., from NIS 10.2m. operating expenses remained almost unchanged at NIS 1.47m., and total assets decreased to NIS 2.36b., from NIS 3.07b.

Leumi Industrial Development Bank reported 1995 net profits of NIS 5.1m., down about 18% compared with the previous year. The drop was mainly due to higher taxes. Operating profits before taxes increased to NIS 4m., from NIS 1.5m.

Bank Leumi Mortgage Bank reported a 20% increase in 1995 net profits to NIS 28.37m. Fourth-quarter net profits rose 32.7% to NIS 10.49m., from NIS 7.9m. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 10.9%, from 16.1%.

Arab Bank, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, reported a 38.8% growth in 1995 net profits to NIS 20.4m., from NIS 14.7m. Net return on equity on an annual basis totaled 10%. The improvement was primarily due to a 22.4% rise in operating income, to NIS 39m., and a 0.2% drop in operating expenses, to NIS 64.2m.

Leumi Finance Company, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi primarily engaged in issues of debentures to the public, reported net profits of NIS 4.3m. compared with NIS 4.43m. last year. Income from financing operations before provision for doubtful debts fell to

NIS 3.1m., compared with net profits of NIS 3.87m. in 1994, on revenues of NIS 12.1m., up from NIS 4.6m.

Klii Industries reported 1995 net profits of NIS 11.29m., up from NIS 7.34m. in the previous year, on revenues of NIS 245.35m., up from NIS 216.49m. Earnings per share were NIS 1.12, up from NIS 0.74.

Fourth-quarter profits declined to NIS 1.42m., from NIS 5.3m., on a 7.5% drop in revenues to NIS 65.29m., from NIS 70.4m.

## Agnelli bows out as Fiat chief

MILAN (Reuter) Gianni Agnelli, Italy's most powerful businessman, stood down after 30 years as chairman of Fiat yesterday and handed over the reins of the country's biggest industrial group to Cesare Romiti.

The changing of the guard signaled the end of an era by putting leadership of Fiat in the hands of someone outside the Agnelli family circle for the first time since the 1960s, when Vittorio Valletta ran the company.

Fiat, a huge conglomerate with interests ranging from cars to civil engineering, is one of the largest businesses in Europe which is still under the control of a single family.

The charismatic, silver-haired Agnelli, known to millions of Italians simply as "L'Avvocato" (the lawyer), bid farewell at a board meeting at the group's headquarters in Turin. Agnelli turns 75 on March 12.

In a speech to board members, Agnelli said the company was 14 times larger in terms of annual sales than when he took over 30 years ago and was well placed to compete on the world stage.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Taiwanese computer concern Lite On announced yesterday it is considering establishing a production line here. The announcement was made after a meeting between Lite On international division president Dr. Sing Mao and Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Yossi Snir.

Sing Mao's visit was initiated by Dr. Felix Zandman, president of Visbay, the firm which would establish a partnership with Lite On. Lite On, which has an annual turnover of \$1.3 billion, is a manufacturer of computer components and peripherals. The concern has 27 production lines in eight countries.

Rachel Neiman

KAL-Visa is offering a special deal for linking up to the Internet via Netvision. For NIS 29 a month, the user gets 10 hours of free monthly usage for three months during which time the user's Visa points are debited by 333 points. The credit-card company claims it is the cheapest Internet offer on the market.

Judy Siegel

Nexus messaging system to be tested by 2 US paging firms: US pager firms American Paging and AirTouch Paging have decided to test jointly Nexus Telecommunication Systems' two-way messaging system. The test will be conducted in Chicago from March until August.

The technology provides carriers with the ability to add a low-cost, wireless return network to an existing outbound (one-way) network. Nexus has a developing and manufacturing alliance with Samsung and Rockwell, as well as a cooperative agreement with Glenayre. The company was founded and is 27%-owned by BVR Technologies.

Rachel Neiman

13 local firms at Frisco high-tech conference: Thirteen local companies are among the 300 participants at US investment bank Robertson Stephens' high-tech conference which opened this week in San Francisco. The companies are Technomatrix, Lanoptics, Orbotech, Magic, Vocaltec, Scitec, BVR, Geotech, Opal, Scorpio Communication, Check Point, and VDO Corporation. Evergreen Capital Markets is Robertson Stephens' affiliate here.

Rachel Neiman

Etz Lavud has embarked on a cooperative business venture with Perstorp, one of the world's largest Formica manufacturers. Perstorp will market a minimum of \$5m. of Etz Lavud's Formica annually to England and Scotland for four years. Etz Lavud's total annual exports were \$10m. last year.

Rachel Neiman

Rotlex signs pact with Nidek: Rotlex and Japanese ophthalmic equipment firm Nidek have signed a memorandum of understanding for strategic cooperation in developing future products. Rotlex said the agreement is an opening into the Japanese market.

Rotlex is jointly held by Rotem Industries and the venture capital fund Tezza - a Fairchild Technology Venture. The company develops, manufactures, and markets optical lens and contact lens measuring equipment.

Rachel Neiman

**Bezeq profits up 80% to NIS 566m.**  
JUDY SIEGEL

**Mercantile sacks 2 managers**  
GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BEZEQ posted net profits of NIS 566 million last year, an 80 percent increase compared with 1994. Fourth-quarter net profits were NIS 159.1m. compared with NIS 120.3m. in the same quarter last year.

Bezeq reported gross income of NIS 7.159 billion compared with NIS 6.524b. in 1994. The rise was primarily due to the high increase in cellular phone traffic and moderate growth in the use of conventional phones.

Chairman Gurion Meltzer and director-general Yitzhak Kani, however, said telecommunications rates have continued to erode.

Profits per share were NIS 0.78 for NIS 1 in face value of stock compared with NIS 0.44 in 1994. Bezeq invested an unprecedented NIS 1,889b. in infrastructure last year compared with NIS 1,734b. in 1994. The company will also transfer NIS 344.1m. in royalties to the Treasury.

There are now 2,524,000 direct phone lines in the country, a 13.4% growth compared with the previous year. The number of broken lines continued to drop to 1.2 per 1,000 on an average day compared with 1.5 breakdowns per 1,000 in 1994. The average wait for the installation of a line has dropped to 16.8 days, 60% shorter than the previous year.

Meanwhile, ex-president Chaim Herzog has been named a member of Bezeq International's board.

MERCANTILE Discount Bank fired two branch managers who did not follow the bank's credit provision regulations last year, Mercantile general manager Moshe Gavish said yesterday while announcing a 15.5% drop in the bank's net profits last year.

The bank completed the year with profits of NIS 36m., down from NIS 42.6m. in 1994, due mainly to a 121% growth in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 82.7m., from NIS 37.34m. Gavish said the rise in provisions was necessary after the bank's internal control division discovered credit management mistakes at two of its branches.

"Forty percent of the provision clause, amounting to NIS 32m., is due to credit given to small-account holders for the purchase of securities, mainly in two of the bank's branches. We are still trying to regain the debt, but it is difficult since small accounts are involved," Gavish added.

The manager said a total of five branch managers were removed last year since they did not follow management regulations. Two managers were fired because they deviated from credit provision regulations, one was laid off for another reason, and two others were transferred to other positions.

"They deviated from the bank's regulations, not securities law," Gavish said.

**"A fax for you"**  
All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.  
15 minutes and you're gone...  
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

**Jerusalem District Electricity Co. Ltd.**  
**Tender No. 9/96**  
8.7/15 kV U/G Cables and Accessories  
Bids are invited for the supply of 8.7/15 kV U/G cables and accessories.  
A copy of the specification and conditions of tender can be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors, 15 Salah el-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7, until March 14, 1996.  
Bids should be submitted not later than 12 noon on April 1, 1996.

**LEUMI MUTUAL FUND**  
Date: 27.2.96  
Purchase Price: 149.80  
Redemption Price: 147.51

**PRIME MUTUAL FUND**  
Date: 27.2.96  
Purchase Price: 109.05  
Redemption Price: 107.58

**NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE**  
**OLD-AGE PENSIONS FOR HOUSEWIVES**

**Housewives are now also entitled to an old-age pension**  
An amendment to the National Insurance Law, effective from January 1, 1996, entitles housewives (defined as married women who do not work outside the home) to an old-age pension.

Women's entitlement to an old-age pension has thus been expanded to include all women, regardless of whether they work outside the home or not.

**In order to qualify for an old-age pension, housewives must be:**  
- Resident in Israel for the five years prior to reaching the age of 65.  
- Born after December 31, 1930.  
Housewives are entitled to an old-age pension from the day of their sixty-fifth birthday, effective January 1, 1996.

**What is the level of old-age pensions?**  
Old-age pensions are in the amount of 16% of the average wage (NIS 732 in February 1996). Housewives are not entitled to supplements in respect of their husband or children. If your application for a pension is approved, the supplement previously paid to your husband will be stopped as of the day that you qualify to receive a pension.

**Applying for an old-age pension**  
If you were born after December 31, 1930, and have already reached the age of 65, you may apply for a old-age pension by filling out the necessary form, available at any branch of the National Insurance Institute. (A form will be mailed to you if you request one by phone or in writing.) The completed form should be delivered or mailed to the nearest branch of the National Insurance Institute.  
Housewives who have not yet turned 65 should apply for an old-age pension shortly before their 65th birthday.

Public Relations Department

**BEZEQ, The Israel Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.**

Tender No.	Description of Tender	Date of Submission	Cost of Documents	Telephone
25/96/064/0	6 kV Ampere	26/3/96 (6 p.m.)	NIS 500	02-395616 429

The following general conditions apply:

- Pre-conditions:
  - Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, hold valid licenses to trade, and comply with all relevant standard specifications.
  - Willingness to provide a guarantee, as explained in the tender documents.
  - Compliance with the "minimum" conditions, given in the tender documents.
- The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Ordering Department of the Purchasing Division, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem (Room 609) Tel. 02-395614/5, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday.  
The tender documents will be provided on submitting a receipt of payment for the above sum.  
\* In Israel, payment should be made into Bezeq's Postal Bank account no. 5-311757.  
\* Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97633/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi Leisrael.  
The fee for the tender documents is non-refundable.  
The receipt, with details of your company and authorized trader's number may be faxed to 972-2-378113. Please phone afterwards (phone numbers as above), to obtain confirmation of receipt of the fax.
- Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, not later than 6 p.m.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source.

Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.

**ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS**

Patna (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.970	4.250	4.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.810	4.250	4.360
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.320
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	0.250	0.275	0.750
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (28.2.96)**

Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Bank of Israel
U.S. dollar	3.4980	3.5119	3.02	3.17	3.1000
German mark	2.1113	2.1454	2.07	2.12	2.1296
French franc	4.7307	4.8717	4.64	4.74	4.7712
Japanese yen (100)	2.9465	2.9591	0.50	0.54	0.5596
Swiss franc	1.6955	1.7161	2.29	2.34	2.3719
Dutch guilder	2.5941	2.6380	2.54	2.59	2.6262
Australian dollar	0.4887	0.4920	0.53	0.58	0.5928
Canadian dollar	0.4841	0.4881	0.45	0.48	0.4889
Spanish peseta	0.5462	0.5551	0.47	0.50	0.4978
Portuguese escudo	2.2882	2.3171	0.53	0.57	0.5894
Italian lire (100)	0.8819	0.8929	0.67	0.71	0.7208
Israeli sheqel (10)	2.9324	2.9713	2.18	2.28	2.2948
South African rand	0.2023	0.2124	0.20	0.21	0.2146
Belgian franc (10)	1.0394	1.0494	1.00	1.04	1.0524
Indian rupee (1000)	1.6854	1.7026	1.50	1.54	1.5572
Japanese yen (100)	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Egyptian pound	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Indian rupee	3.9322	3.9522	0.98	1.02	1.0306
Spanish peseta (100)	4.8704	4.9450	3.87	4.02	4.0406
British pound	2.5077	2.5482	2.39	2.50	2.5262

\* These rates vary according to deposit

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Bezeq propels market upward

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



SHARES advanced yesterday as Bezeq reported stronger fourth-quarter earnings.

Trading for Teva and Koor, designed to match the companies' rises in New York on Tuesday, also helped the indexes forward. The Two-Sided Index closed at 211.38, up 0.78 percent while the Maof Index was up 0.92% to 220.33.

ularly for earnings from property companies. The majors in the industry are: Industrial Buildings, Property & Buildings and Africa-Israel Investments Ltd. 'My feeling is that they are weak, and if they are weak, the market will be weak,' he said. Meirav was concerned that sales of new units might have declined, which 'indicates profits have gone down or at least are stagnant.'

Bezeq was the most active stock, up 2% on NIS 4.6 million of shares traded.

Total trading was NIS 78.4 million across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Advancing stocks outpaced decliners 3 to 2.

Most Israeli companies will report earnings in the next five weeks. Meirav is watching partic-

ularly for earnings from property companies. The majors in the industry are: Industrial Buildings, Property & Buildings and Africa-Israel Investments Ltd. 'My feeling is that they are weak, and if they are weak, the market will be weak,' he said. Meirav was concerned that sales of new units might have declined, which 'indicates profits have gone down or at least are stagnant.'

Teva gained 1 percent. Its American Depositary Receipts gained 1/2 to 43/4. Shares of Koor added 1.75%, while its ADRs tacked on 1/2 to 20. Elroo Electroline Industries Ltd. lost 0.5%. The company's shares traded in New York fell 3/16 yesterday to 12 1/2.

Among other closely watched issues, department store chain Shekema rose 0.25%, while Super-Sol added 1%, Bank Leumi and First International Bank added 0.75% each. Bank Hapoalim rose 1%.

FTSE up 22 points WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Another day of steady advances saw British shares finish near the day's highs as consolidation continued to be the market's principal characteristic. Trading lacked much sparkle as prices crept higher through the day, building an initial gain at the opening. The FTSE 100 share index finished 22.3 points higher at 3,738.2.

high of 3,400. The broad SPI gained 28.38 points to end at 2,178.55 and the SMI was up 50.3 points, or 1.52 percent, to 3,360.2. TOKYO - Tokyo stocks gave their early gains as arbitrage-linked selling turned active in late trading, with the Nikkei average finishing below 20,000 for the first time since December 29, 1995, jittered about rising domestic short-term interest rates hurt sentiment. The Nikkei average ended down 80.43 points or 0.40% to 19,919.97.

FRANKFURT - German shares ended the bourse session with the DAX index at a record closing high, buoyed by Bunds and the firmer dollar, however, the DAX fails to breach resistance at intra-day high of 2,473.23 as momentum lacking, dealers warn of risk of gradual downside in afternoon trade. The DAX Index ended up 27.58 points to 2,472.50. In post-bourse trade the DAX index stood at 2,486.95 up 37.86.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks closed moderately but not steep early highs in trade narrowed by February index futures expiry. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index put on 67.63 points to end at 11,264.65.

PARIS - French shares finished sharply higher on takeover fever and interest from foreign, notably US, investors. The CAC index briefly pierced resistance at the 2,000 level. The CAC-40 index closed up 22.37, or 1.13 percent, at 1,996.89.

SYDNEY - The Australia share market meandered in a firm close after a day of ordinary turnover and mediocre leads to work with. The All Ordinaries index was 7.0 points higher at 2,265.7.

ZURICH - Swiss shares rose on a firm dollar and less volatile bond futures to close almost 1.5 percent higher. Dealers said the blue-chip SMI, which broke out of its recent range, now had a good chance to test its all-time

high of 3,400. The broad SPI gained 28.38 points to end at 2,178.55 and the SMI was up 50.3 points, or 1.52 percent, to 3,360.2. TOKYO - Tokyo stocks gave their early gains as arbitrage-linked selling turned active in late trading, with the Nikkei average finishing below 20,000 for the first time since December 29, 1995, jittered about rising domestic short-term interest rates hurt sentiment. The Nikkei average ended down 80.43 points or 0.40% to 19,919.97.

Dow drops 43 points WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Late sell programs erased early gains and sent the Dow Jones industrials sharply lower near the close, but they left the broad stock market close to unchanged. The Dow Jones average closed down 43 points at 5,506.21, having given up a morning gain of more than 30 points.

PARIS (AP) - Late sell programs erased early gains and sent the Dow Jones industrials sharply lower near the close, but they left the broad stock market close to unchanged. The Dow Jones average closed down 43 points at 5,506.21, having given up a morning gain of more than 30 points.

Blue-chip stocks tracked a volatile session in the bond market. The long Treasury bond rose about 1/2 point, despite robust economic reports, but dipped into negative territory in the afternoon after the Treasury auctioned 5-year notes. The 30-year Treasury bond was down 1/16 point late in the session.

PARIS (AP) - Late sell programs erased early gains and sent the Dow Jones industrials sharply lower near the close, but they left the broad stock market close to unchanged. The Dow Jones average closed down 43 points at 5,506.21, having given up a morning gain of more than 30 points.

On Tuesday, the Investment Company Institute, a mutual-fund trade organization, said investors poured an unprecedented

amount of money into stock mutual funds in January, eclipsing earlier estimates and almost tripling the previous January record, set in 1994, of \$10.5 billion. Money managers continue to have to put that money to work in stocks, Dickey said. They are investing in safer, blue-chip names. Advocates led decliners by 1,227 to 1,124 on the New York Stock Exchange, leaving 753 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled 447 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 431.31 million Tuesday. The NYSE's composite index fell 0.97 to 344.62. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 2.49 to 644.75. The Nasdaq composite index rose 2.82 to 1,108.99.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index rose 2.80 to 566.66.

FRANKFURT (AP) - German shares ended the bourse session with the DAX index at a record closing high, buoyed by Bunds and the firmer dollar, however, the DAX fails to breach resistance at intra-day high of 2,473.23 as momentum lacking, dealers warn of risk of gradual downside in afternoon trade. The DAX Index ended up 27.58 points to 2,472.50. In post-bourse trade the DAX index stood at 2,486.95 up 37.86.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of Tel Aviv Stock Market data including Commercial, Mortgage Banks, Financial Institutions, Insurance, and various sectors like Property, Building & Agriculture, Trade & Services, Oil Exploration, and Paralel List.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and text: THE PEOPLE YOU CAN BANK TO.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of International Stock Prices listing various companies from New York, London, and other global markets with their respective prices and changes.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against the NIS.

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrial, DJ Total, NYSE Composite, etc.

Other stock market indexes table listing FTSE 100, Nikkei, Hang Seng, etc.

NYSE/AMEX table listing various individual stocks and their prices.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (913-287-8548)

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA COURTESY OF COMSTOCK TRADING LTD.

Table of Dollar cross-rates for various currencies.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodity prices for various goods.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table of London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (UK)

Table of spot market metal prices for the UK.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (913-287-8548)

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table showing exchange rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, SF, and FFY.





# '20% of weddings not Orthodox'

HAIM SHAPIRO

ONE out of every five couples marrying in Israel today does so without going through the Chief Rabbinate, according to figures compiled by Hemdat, the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in Israel.

Hemdat announced the findings yesterday in a booklet *Behira Hofshit Benaim* (Free Choice in Marriage), which the organization intends to distribute to those contemplating marriage.

The organization bases its assertion on the fact that in recent years, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) figures for Jewish couples married have far exceeded those of the Rabbinate. For example, in 1994 the Rabbinate reported some 21,000 marriages, while the CBS recorded 26,149.

According to Hemdat chairman Prof. Hillel Shoval, the booklet lists and explains the various alternative choices available, including a civil marriage in Cyprus, either with or without a subsequent Conservative or Reform wedding ceremony, marital agreements drawn up by lawyers, and proxy marriages in Paraguay. He said the booklet even includes information on pre-nuptial agreements for couples who plan to have a marriage conducted by a recognized Orthodox rabbi.

Shoval said there were no figures as to who exactly was being married outside the Rabbinate, although it was clear that many were Jews who could not marry, such as a *cohen* and a divorcee,

and immigrants, especially from the former Soviet Union, who could not satisfactorily prove their Jewishness to the Rabbinate.

However, he added, there were also many who could be married by an Orthodox rabbi in Israel, but chose not to do so.

"We believe there is a growing number of perfectly kosher couples who avoid marriage with the Rabbinate, either because they fear possible divorce proceedings if the marriage breaks up, or because of a backlash reaction to the extreme coercion of the Rabbinate," Shoval said.

Echoing his views, Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Committee, said his group, which offers the option of a Reform marriage together with a civil marriage in Cyprus, was seeing more and more couples who could be married by the Rabbinate.

Regev noted that over the past decade the number of those marrying in the Rabbinate has remained static, despite the increase in population. This leads him to believe that many couples are living together, rather than going through any marriage.

"Many choose not to marry at all, because they fear that if they have to get a divorce, they will fall into the hands of the rabbinate. In order to hang on to their monopoly, the rabbinate is actually forcing couples away from family life," Regev said.



Ronang Nopakun, Thailand's first ambassador here, shares a toast with President Ezer Weizman after presenting his credentials yesterday. (Isaac Harel)

## Burg in US to discuss Jewish assets in Swiss banks

BATSHEVA TSUR

MEMBERS of the US Senate's Banking Committee are to meet with Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg and World Jewish Congress head Edgar Bronfman in New York today to discuss Jewish assets held in Swiss banks since World War II, the agency spokesman said.

The committee, headed by Alfonso D'Amato (Rep.), will hold an unprecedented hearing on the issue next month. Swiss bankers have been invited to testify.

The hearings come on the heels of recent revelations by researchers in Eastern Europe—particularly at the archives of the KGB in Moscow and the Securitate in Bucharest—that Nazis held bank accounts in Switzerland which were apparently taken over from Jewish victims. The researchers also uncovered documents purportedly confirming that records of Jewish accounts and assets had been destroyed by Swiss bankers.

Following the hearings, the intention is to present claims to the frozen assets in the names of the Holocaust victims and their heirs.

In their presentation to the committee, Bronfman and Burg plan to raise 20 central points, the spokesman said. They will demand that the banks transfer all documents pertaining to these accounts to authorized persons in the Jewish world and in Israel.

They will also suggest that Holocaust victims and their relatives be allowed to testify on the unsympathetic attitude of the Swiss banks to requests to trace such accounts.

Yesterday, Burg and Bronfman met with heads of the Claims Conference to coordinate positions and strategy.

## First female commander named to head police division

BILL HUTMAN

A WOMAN, for the first time, is to be promoted to police commander and become the head of the police manpower division, as part of a series of top appointments announced yesterday by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

Dep.-Cmdr. Esther Dumincini is one of 30 officers to be taking new posts. Dumincini, 46, will also be the first woman to join the command staff, which

meets weekly to set police policy. Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, at a press conference together with Shahal, said many of the new appointments would not take effect until after the election, to ensure police work continues smoothly in the coming months.

Other appointments include Cmdr. Sando Mazo as head of

police investigations, Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki to head the Southern District, and Cmdr. Avi Cohen to take over the minister's operational headquarters.

The new appointments were made necessary by a series of recent retirements. "They will make the police even more prepared for the difficult period that awaits us... with the advancement of the peace process," Hefetz said.

## Meretz demands court approve its Shabbat bus service

EVELYN GORDON

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the Transportation Ministry's refusal to allow Meretz to run buses on Shabbat in Haifa.

Meretz Youth has been running buses on Friday nights in Haifa for a year now, but because the line has not been licensed as public transportation, it cannot charge for the service. It therefore applied for a license from the supervisor of traffic, but the latter has still not ruled on the group's request a year later. Chazan therefore petitioned the High Court.

The fact that there has been no decision in 12 months is unreasonable in and of itself, the petition said. However, it continued, the failure to give it a license is also substantively unreasonable.

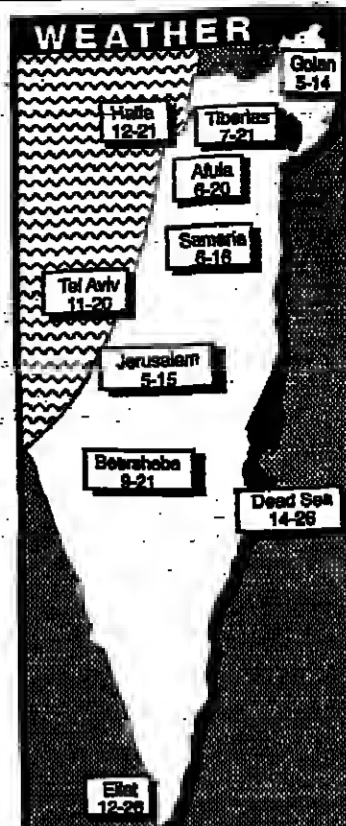
According to a study by the Road Safety Administration, the percentage of road accident victims who are under 18 on Friday nights is twice the percentage on week days, the petition said. This

shows that public buses are essential to reduce the number of weekend accident victims, it argued.

In addition, since many young people cannot drive, they hitchhike, leaving themselves open to rape and terror attacks. The same dangers face soldiers who must hitchhike back to base because there are no buses, the petition continued. However, these dangers could be reduced by public buses, it said.

Finally, it argued, many adults do not have cars, and have a right to public transportation on Shabbat.

By law, the supervisor can grant licenses for buses on Shabbat if it is necessary either for public safety or for fulfilling the needs of public transportation. The Meretz buses meet both these criteria, the petition argued, and will not offend religious sensibilities, because the routes have been carefully planned to avoid religious neighborhoods.



### AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	8	12	cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	26	clear
Calcutta	21	28	clear
Chicago	10	18	clear
Copenhagen	4	10	cloudy
Helsinki	1	6	clear
London	8	13	cloudy
Manila	24	31	clear
Medan	24	31	cloudy
Montreal	4	10	clear
Moscow	4	10	clear
New York	9	15	cloudy
Osaka	5	11	clear
Paris	8	13	cloudy
Rome	13	18	clear
Santo Domingo	21	26	clear
Sydney	10	16	clear
Taipei	20	26	clear
Tokyo	8	14	clear
Toronto	1	6	clear
Winnipeg	1	6	clear
Zurich	4	10	clear

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, seven of hearts, eight of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New IEC chairman still not named

DESPITE reports to the contrary, Israel Electric Corporation has not yet named a new chairman of the board. Treasury Minister Avraham Shohat and Energy Minister Gonen Segev announced yesterday afternoon they had selected Gad Ya'acobi as their joint candidate for the position. Ya'acobi is presently ambassador to the UN. This is not the first time Ya'acobi's name has been raised but is the first official mention of his candidacy. No date has been set for the final selection of a new IEC board chairman to succeed Adi Amoral, who stepped down last summer. Rachel Neiman

#### Kassar postpones bus fare hike

Transport Minister Yisrael Kassar announced yesterday that because of Sunday's bus bombing, he is delaying the 3.3 percent increase in bus fares, which was due to go into effect today. Kassar said that he was taking the step in consultation with Prime Minister Shimon Peres. He said that there were fears a rise, combined with this week's events, could cause a drastic drop in the number of Egged and Dan passengers. He did not want to burden the traveling public during these difficult times, he said. Passengers who have bought bus passes at the new prices are to exchange them and receive a rebate. Haim Shapiro

#### Minimum wage updated

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir yesterday updated the minimum wage, in light of the recent Cost of Living increase, to NIS 1,828.22 a month retroactive to February 1. Ilim

#### Bromide fire at Ramat Hovav

A chemical fire broke out at a bromide factory in the Ramat Hovav industrial area yesterday, but was quickly extinguished without causing injuries. At about 10:45, bromide was released while workers were handling piping at the new production facility. The bromide caught fire and a billow of yellow smoke spread throughout the area. Factory safety crews had the blaze under control by the time firefighters arrived. Ilim

#### Armed bandits rob post office

Three armed and masked robbers held up a post office bank in Baka al-Gharbiya yesterday morning and stole NIS 16,000 in cash. The bandits fled in a getaway car that was parked nearby, police reported. Roadblocks were set up but by last night the robbers were still at large. David Rudge

#### Pedestrian killed by car

An 80-year-old Haifa man, Shimon Goldfinger, was hit by a car and killed while crossing the busy highway between the Paz Bridge and the checkpoint junction on the northern outskirts of the city yesterday morning. Police said it appeared Goldfinger had stepped onto the road from behind a lorry and was hit by the car which was traveling from the direction of the Checkpoint toward Haifa. David Rudge

#### Kahane jailed for sedition

Benjamin Kahane was sentenced to four months in prison and a year suspended for sedition by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Tuesday. In 1992, Kahane published and distributed a leaflet calling for the bombing of Umm al-Fahm after residents of the town killed three soldiers. The court ruled that the leaflet constituted "incitement to rebellion" and "incitement to racism."

It took the prosecution more than three years to obtain the conviction because the first indictment it submitted was dismissed due to a technical error in its drafting. AP

#### Jordanian prince to visit Sheba

King Hussein's cousin, Prince Fijaj Ra'ad, will visit Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer today. He is responsible for all organizations dealing with the disabled in Jordan. Ra'ad had met recently with a group of Israeli and German children with cystic fibrosis who toured Eilat, Akaba, and Petra. During the Jordanian leg of the visit, he promised to keep in touch and visit Sheba. The director and heads of 14 departments at the Hussein Hospital in Amman visited Sheba and established friendly ties with its doctors. Judy Siegel

## Panel suggests more rural settlements for Beduin

LIAT COLLINS

THE Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the Beduin Sector recommends establishing more rural settlements for Negev Beduin in addition to the existing towns, according to its report submitted yesterday to Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss.

The number, location, size and structure of the villages will be decided on by a committee comprising officials from relevant ministries and representatives of the Beduin communities. The creation of the new settlements will be dependent on the Beduin evacuating state land.

According to the report, the villages will allow the Beduin to continue their traditional lifestyle while removing the principal milestone which has held back the development of the sector. The villages will be populated by Beduin willing to reach a legal agreement with the government over land use. Those not willing to accept the arrangement can turn to the courts, the report states.

MK David Meza (Likud) who chaired the commission said the problems of the Negev Beduin have dragged on too long. "The key to solving their problems is solving the land problem issue. The government must dedicate itself to solving the problems fairly, to put an end to the feeling of neglect and discrimination found among the Beduin and halt the trend towards extreme nationalism," he said.

The commission noted the low number of Negev Beduin employed in the public sector and said this added to the feeling of isolation. It also pointed out that approximately 50 percent of the Negev Beduin receive supplementary income benefits and urged the government to find employment opportunities for the Beduin in the south to solve the unemployment problem.

It said the government does not allocate sufficient professional welfare services to help Beduin in permanent settlements adjust to a new non-nomadic lifestyle. Although it commended physical improvements made to schools, the commission noted that the dropout rate for students is 80 percent between first and 12th grades; the numbers taking matriculation exams each year has dropped from 70% to 55%, and only 33% pass.

The commission found the health situation has improved among Negev Beduin but there is still a large gap between their conditions and those in other Israeli sectors.

## 'Stateless' Jordanian going home

DAVID RUDGE

ONE of two Jordanians of Palestinian origin, who have spent the last 10 months in a form of stateless limbo after they were expelled from Israel to Lebanon, is to be reunited with his family in Amman today.

Mohammed Joulani, 28, is among 36 Jordanians who are to return under an agreement reached after a year of negotiations between Israel and Jordan. The first group of six are to return today.

Joulani, who had served nine years in prison for security offenses, was deported to Lebanon last April along with Khamis Khodor, 59, who had served 25 years for terrorist activities. They have spent the last 10 months as "guests" at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqurah. The Lebanese authorities refused to accept them, and no other country would agree to take them in.

During that time, Joulani became the chess champion of the force. When told he would be going home, he was delighted, although he expressed concern for Khodor who is not on the list of those who will return to Jordan.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Golsel said Joulani was handed over to the IDF at the Rosh Hanikra crossing point last night.

"We appreciate the efforts of the Jordanian and Israeli authorities for arranging for Joulani to be reunited with his family, and we hope a solution will be found soon for Khamis Khodor," he said. "Because of the problem of tracing his (Khodor) family and his Jordanian origin, he's not on this list, but we are continuing efforts to try and find a home for him."

## Health funds to provide mental health services

THE health funds will be responsible for providing mental health care to their members starting May 1, after the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday approved the inclusion of psychiatric and psychological care in the basket of health services.

For years, the government has been required to directly cover the costs of such services. The transfer was originally to have been carried out on January 1, 1996 - a year after the National Health Insurance System began - but was delayed because the health funds said they were not ready.

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